

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A copyrighted work managing method for managing copyrighted work data desired to be transmitted from a personal computer coupled to a first communication network to a server coupled to a second communication network, said method comprising the steps of:

arranging a gateway between the first communication network and the second communication network such that data transmitted between the first communication network and the second communication network is supplied to the gateway;

detecting at the gateway whether copyrighted work data in communication data has been transmitted from the personal computer ~~on a communication network~~ which is desired to be supplied to the server;

determining whether a user has performed a copyright licensing process for the copyrighted work data detected at the detecting step in favor of a copyright owner of the copyrighted work data; and

prohibiting the communication data from being uploaded to the server depending upon the determined result obtained by the determining step.

2. (previously presented) The copyrighted work managing method as set forth in claim 1,

wherein when the determined result of the determining step represents that the user has not performed the copyright licensing process for the copyrighted work data, the copyright owner is notified that the user has not performed the copyright licensing process for the copyrighted work data.

3. (previously presented) The copyrighted work managing method as set forth in claim 1,

wherein when the determined result of the determining step represents that the user has not performed the copyright licensing process for the copyrighted work data, the user is prompted for performing the copyright licensing process for the copyrighted work data.

4. (previously presented) The copyrighted work managing method as set forth in claim 1,

wherein when the determined result of the determining step represents that the user has not performed the copyright licensing process for the copyrighted work data, program data for causing the copyrighted work data to be prohibited from being transmitted is transmitted to the client.

5. (currently amended) A copyrighted work managing apparatus for managing copyrighted work data desired to be transmitted from a personal computer coupled to a first communication network to a server coupled to a second communication network, comprising:

a gateway arranged between the first communication network and the second communication network such that data transmitted between the first communication network and the second communication network is supplied to the gateway;

detecting means for detecting at the gateway whether copyrighted work data in communication data has been transmitted from the personal computer ~~on a communication network~~ which is desired to be supplied to the server;

determining means for determining whether a user has performed a copyright licensing process for the copyrighted work data detected by said detecting means in favor of a copyright owner of the copyrighted work data; and

transmission prohibiting means for prohibiting the communication data from being uploaded to the server depending upon the determined result obtained by said determining means.

6. (currently amended) A copyrighted work managing method for managing copyrighted work data desired to be transmitted from a personal computer coupled to a first communication network to a server coupled to a second communication network, comprising the steps of:

arranging a gateway between the first communication network and the second communication network such that data transmitted between the first communication network and the second communication network is supplied to the gateway;

detecting at the gateway whether copyrighted work data in communication data has been transmitted from the personal computer ~~on a communication network~~ which is desired to be supplied to the server;

determining whether a user has performed a copyright licensing process for the copyrighted work data detected at the detecting step in favor of a copyright owner of the copyrighted work data; and

notifying the user that he or she has not performed the copyright licensing process depending upon the determined result obtained at the determining step.

7. (previously presented) The copyrighted work managing method as set forth in claim 6,

wherein when the determined result of the determining step represents that the user has not performed the copyright licensing process for the copyrighted work data, the copyright owner is notified that the user has not performed the copyright licensing process for the copyrighted work data.

8. (previously presented) The copyrighted work managing method as set forth in claim 6,

wherein when the determined result of the determining step represents that the user has not performed the copyright licensing process for the copyrighted work data, the communication data is prohibited from being transmitted.

9. (previously presented) The copyrighted work managing method as set forth in claim 8,

wherein program data for prohibiting the copyrighted work data from being transmitted is transmitted to the client so as to prohibit the communication data from being transmitted.

10. (previously presented) The copyrighted work managing method as set forth in claim 6,

wherein when the determined result at the determining step represents that the user has not performed the copyright licensing process for the copyrighted work data, the communication data for transmitting the copyrighted work data is destroyed.

11. (previously presented) The copyrighted work managing method as set forth in claim 10,

wherein program data for causing the communication data for transmitting the copyrighted work data to be destroyed is transmitted to the client so as to destroy the communication data.

12. (currently amended) A copyrighted work managing apparatus for managing copyrighted work data desired to be transmitted from a personal computer coupled to a first communication network to a server coupled to a second communication network, comprising:

a gateway arranged between the first communication network and the second communication network such that data transmitted between the first communication network and the second communication network is supplied to the gateway;

detecting means for detecting whether copyrighted work data in communication data has been transmitted from the personal computer ~~on a communication network~~ which is desired to be supplied to the server;

determining means for determining whether a user has performed a copyright licensing process for the copyrighted work data detected by said detecting means in favor of a copyright owner of the copyrighted work data; and

notifying means for notifying the user that he or she has not performed the copyright licensing process depending upon the determined result obtained by said determining means.

13. (currently amended) A copyright work managing method for managing copyrighted work data desired to be transmitted from a personal computer coupled to a first communication network to a server coupled to a second communication network, said method comprising the steps of:

arranging a gateway between the first communication network and the second communication network such that data transmitted between the first communication network and the second communication network is supplied to the gateway;

detecting at the gateway whether copyrighted work data in communication data has been transmitted from the personal computer ~~on a communication network~~ which is desired to be supplied to the server;

determining whether a user has performed a copyright licensing process for the copyrighted work data detected at the detecting step in favor of a copyright owner of the copyrighted work data; and

destroying the communication data depending upon the determined result obtained at the determining step.

14. (previously presented) The copyrighted work managing method as set forth in claim 13,

wherein when the determined result of the determining step represents that the user has not performed the copyright licensing process for the copyrighted work data, the copyright owner is notified that the user has not performed the copyright licensing process for the copyrighted work data.

15. (previously presented) The copyrighted work managing method as set forth in claim 13,

wherein when the determined result of the determining step represents that the user has not performed the copyright licensing process for the copyrighted work data, the user is prompted for performing the copyright licensing process for the copyrighted work data.

16. (previously presented) The copyrighted work managing method as set forth in claim 13,

wherein when the determined result of the determining step represents that the user has not performed the copyright licensing process for the copyrighted work data, program data for causing the communication data for transmitting the copyrighted work data to be destroyed is transmitted to the client.

17. (currently amended) A copyrighted work managing apparatus for managing copyrighted work data desired to be transmitted from a personal computer coupled to a first communication network to a server coupled to a second communication network, comprising:

a gateway arranged between the first communication network and the second communication network such that data transmitted between the first communication network and the second communication network is supplied to the gateway;

detecting means for detecting at the gateway whether copyrighted work data in communication data has been transmitted from the personal computer ~~on a communication network~~ which is desired to be supplied to the server;

determining means for determining whether the user has performed a copyright licensing process for the copyrighted work data detected by said detecting means in favor of a copyright owner of the copyrighted work data; and

destroying means for destroying the communication data depending upon the determined result obtained by said destroying means.